



American Ferret Association, Inc.

PO Box 554 Frederick, MD 21705-0554

1-888-FERRET-1 afa@ferret.org www.ferret.org

EPIZOOTIC CATARRHAL ENTERITIS

Bruce H. Williams, DVM

Since March of 1993, a new, highly contagious coronaviral disease has appeared on the scene, affecting ferrets in the United States and Canada. I had the opportunity to study this disease at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in 1993 and 1994, before it began its march across the country. While overall it should still be considered a serious health risk to ferrets, we have accumulated quite a bit of information about the cause and treatment of this disease. The name ECE is derived from that of a similar disease described by John Gorham in the mid-80's of a similar disease affecting mink, called ECG, or "Epizootic Catarrhal Gastritis". The findings from that study are very similar to that disease, except in the ferret, the inflammation is seen primarily in the intestine, rather than the stomach.

Full article can be found at <http://www.ferret.org/read/ferretHealth.html>

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE IN THE FERRET

Mark E. Burgess, DVM

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in ferrets is a chronic inflammatory disorder of the stomach and intestines. Clinical studies of greater than one hundred ferrets demonstrate that the condition is very prevalent in this species and can result in fatal complications. Two types of IBD exist: eosinophilic gastroenteritis and lymphoplasmacytic gastroenteritis. Eosinophilic gastroenteritis is severe, but uncommon. The focus of this article is on the more common form of IBD, lymphoplasmacytic gastroenteritis. Due, in part, to its subtle nature, i.e., many affected ferrets show no outward signs; veterinarians have seriously overlooked IBD in their diagnostic plan. In addition, veterinarians have misdiagnosed many IBD cases as epizootic catarrhal enteritis (ECE), *Helicobacter mustelae* infections, Aleutian Disease, and others, delaying recognition of IBD in ferrets.

Full article can be found at <http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/IBD.pdf>

PREVENTING INSULINOMAS IN PET FERRETS

Mark E. Burgess, DVM

Islet cell cancer (insulinoma) is common in pet ferrets in the United States. Islets are the areas of the pancreas that make insulin to regulate blood sugar. I first stumbled upon ferret islet cell tumors in 1987, a year after graduation from veterinary school. Our clinic ferret "Josh" was gradually becoming lethargic, and one day he began having seizures. Remembering a question on the board exams, I checked his blood glucose, and it was less than 40 mg/dl. Surgery confirmed the presence of an insulinoma and we cured Josh's hypoglycemia. From that point on I began recognizing islet cell tumors in many of my ferret patients (which we had previously been diagnosing with a vague cortisone-responsive neurologic condition). Needless to say, insulinomas were one of the most common ferret tumors in the U.S. even back then, and they remain so today.

Full article can be found at http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/2014_Insulinoma.pdf